

Filed for intro on 01/30/95
House Bill _____
By _____

Senate Bill No.SJR0026
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A RESOLUTION to honor Robert D. Tuke upon his meritorious
service to the Adoption Study Commission.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of the General Assembly should pause to
express appreciation to those exemplary citizens, who through hard work and dedication, have
contributed significantly to their chosen professions, and

WHEREAS, Robert D. Tuke has served his fellow citizens of Tennessee with the utmost
in industry and expertise as a member of the Commission to Study the Adoption Laws of
Tennessee; he has excelled as the principal drafter of the many proposed revisions to
legislation that the commission is drafting; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tuke is the principal partner in Tuke, Yopp and Sweeney, a Nashville-
based law firm that enjoys a very substantial adoption practice, in addition to handling
corporate, securities and commercial matters; and

WHEREAS, in addition to assisting couples with independent adoptions, Mr. Tuke and his firm also represent two adoption agencies and assist with interstate adoptions and international adoptions; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tuke also serves with acumen and alacrity as a member of the Advisory Board of Tennessee Conference Children's Services, the Board of Trustees of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys and the Nashville Area Adoption Coalition; and

WHEREAS, he has also authored several articles on adoption law, and usually teaches three to five adoption law seminars each year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tuke was formerly a partner with the Nashville law firm of Farris, Warfield and Kanady; his principal areas of practice there were banking, securities, general corporate and tax-exempt financing; and

WHEREAS, during the course of his illustrious tenure at Farris, he also served as a member and chair of the firm's executive committee and headed up the corporate/securities department and the tax-exempt financing practice; and

WHEREAS, after adopting his daughter Sarah in 1983, Mr. Tuke decided to devote more of his time and legal skills to adoption law in an effort to give something back to the community; and

WHEREAS, initially, he helped friends and acquaintances in adopting children, and soon his practice began to grow by word of mouth; and

WHEREAS, by 1992, he was handling professionally 40-50 adoption cases per year, and he became involved in several landmark contested adoption cases; and

WHEREAS, an honors graduate of the University of Virginia, Mr. Tuke served as a U.S. Marines officer for four years, attaining the rank of Captain; and

WHEREAS, his brave service included a tour in Vietnam where he was awarded the Cross of Gallantry by the Vietnamese for combat with their forces; he subsequently resigned his commission to attend law school; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tuke attended Vanderbilt University School of Law on a Patrick Wilson Merit Scholarship; he served as Editor-in-chief of Vanderbilt Law Review and was Order of the Coif; and

WHEREAS, in addition to this thriving law practice, Mr. Tuke is also a member of the Adjunct Faculty of Vanderbilt Law School, where he teaches a course entitled “Corporate and Securities Transactions”, and is a member of the Vanderbilt Corporate and Securities Law Institute; and

WHEREAS, realizing that citizenship entails many responsibilities as well as privileges, Mr. Tuke serves his community in numerous civic leadership capacities, including meritorious service as Advisory Director of Historic Nashville, Inc., having previously served as Chairman, Chairman-Elect of the Outreach Committee of St. George’s Episcopal Church, and as an active member of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, presently serving on the Small Business Committee; and

WHEREAS, his numerous professional accomplishments and accolades aside, Mr. Tuke remains most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife of twenty-five years, Susan Cummins Tuke and their two fine children, Andrew Cummin Tuke and Sarah Rutledge Tuke, both of whom are adopted; and

WHEREAS, throughout all his professional endeavors, Bob Tuke has proven himself to be a highly capable and conscientious attorney whose love and respect for the law as a whole is equaled only by his probity and expertise in adoption matters; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Robert D. Tuke upon his meritorious service to the people of this state as a member of the Adoption Study Commission, even as we salute his numerous contributions to adoption law in Tennessee and his proficient community service as a concerned citizen of the first order. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.